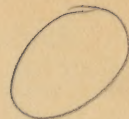


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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Public Health and Welfare Section



WEEKLY BULLETIN

For Period

22 December - 29 December

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SECTION I

WELFARE

School Lunch Program

The school lunch program was inaugurated by the Education Ministry in cooperation with the Health and Welfare Ministry, on 23 December 1946, in Tokyo-To.

Representatives from the Education Ministry, Health and Welfare Ministry, LARA and SCAP (Civil Information & Education, Public Health & Welfare and Public Relations Office) visited the Nagato-Cho Primary School to observe the program in operation.

This first noon day meal was served in 389 primary schools to a total of 76,316 school children. Each meal consisted of 20 grams of stew, containing meat, potatoes, onions, cabbage, carrots and salt.

The food components for these lunches were obtained from normal ration sources, LARA supplies and other imported stocks. Powdered milk will be added to the school lunch menu within the next two-week period. The school lunch is food which is additional to that received by the children through normal rationing channels.

There is a nominal charge for the school lunches served to those children whose parents can afford such payments. The Japanese Government underwrites the lunch expense of those children whose families cannot afford such payments.

Disaster Relief (Southern Honshu Earthquake)

Immediately following the earthquake, the Public Health and Welfare Section, SCAP, called a conference with representatives of the Welfare Ministry to coordinate disaster relief for the sufferers.

Three two-man teams were dispatched to the area by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, to establish liaison within the area and to report the extent of damage to property, injured persons and loss of life.

At the same time, the Public Health and Welfare Section sent three representatives, one each from the Medical Division, Supply Division, and American Red Cross, to survey and coordinate the relief activities. An eight-car special train loaded with Civil Affairs medical supplies and relief materials left for the disaster area.

After the arrival of personnel in the field, it was discovered that in some places the disaster reports had been exaggerated due to the hysteria which naturally follows a disaster.

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Reports as of 2300, 29 December 1946, the disaster had taken the following toll:

Deaths	1289
Injured	2364
Missing	30
Private Homes Completely demolished	9045
Private Homes Damaged	23374
Other Buildings Completely demolished	1141
Other Buildings Damaged	1058
Factories completely demolished	33
Factories	19
Houses washed away	1541
Houses lost in fire	2497
Flooded Homes	25431
Fishing Vessels lost	2602
Bridges lost	48
River Banks broken	91
Roads damaged	155
Estimated homeless	94669

Areas most affected:

Wakayama	Shikoku
Tokushima	Kochi
Kagawa	

All Japanese governmental agencies, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Agriculture Ministry, Japanese Red Cross, American Red Cross, and Eighth Army Military Government Teams are combined in administering relief under the coordination of Public Health and Welfare Section, SCAP.

Japanese Red Cross Society

The past week has seen the Japanese Red Cross engaged primarily in meeting the disaster needs of the recent earthquake.

The headquarters dispatched three (3) medical teams into the disaster area. Each team had the following personnel:

2	Doctors
1	Pharmacist
10	Nurses

A representative of the American Red Cross, attached to Public Health and Welfare, SCAP was sent into the area as a technical advisor, to assist the Japanese Red Cross in meeting the emergency phase. This is the first opportunity for the newly reorganized Japanese Red Cross Society to participate in a disaster operation and to render disaster services, other than medical, as was the practice of the Red Cross in former years.

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The Red Cross authorized a drive, to raise Earthquake Disaster Relief Funds, through its chapters in every prefecture. This drive was held for a three (3) day period in Tokyo (25, 26, 27 December 1946) and was on a strict voluntary contribution basis. The Tokyo "street contributions" during this three day drive will approximate ¥96,000.

SECTION II

MEDICAL SERVICE

The hospital strength report for the week 15 November - 22 November is not submitted due to failure of the Ministry of Health and Welfare to furnish the requested data.

A meeting was held with the Ministry of Education and CI&E to reiterate the policy on medical education and to clear up any misunderstanding that exists concerning the policy. The Medical "Semmon Gakko" in particular was discussed in its relationship to present and future educational systems. The following points were stressed:- Semmon Gakko graduates during the coming spring (1947) will be required to pursue one full year of university level training to be eligible for entrance to the four year medical school course in 1948. Semmon Gakko students in their third year will be required to complete two years of university level training prior to entrance to the medical school. All others will be eligible for entrance into the medical school in 1947 without additional preparation.

On Friday, 27 December 1946, the Japan Medical Association held a meeting in the J.M.A. building. Problems concerning reorganization were discussed.

SECTION III

VETERINARY AFFAIRS

Reports from the Japanese

Animal Disease Report

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Bureau of Animal Industry, reported that no new outbreaks of animal disease occurred during the period 22 - 28 December 1946.

SECTION IV

DENTAL AFFAIRS

National Dental examinations will be held in April.

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Simultaneous written examination will be held in the six major schools. Practical examinations will be held in small increments as facilities will permit.

SECTION V

SUPPLY

General

Request has been submitted to The Surgeon General for supply of certain professional journals to all Military Government Regions and Teams. The list includes 19 periodicals and request has been made that direct subscriptions be provided for each region and team. Upon receipt of information as to action taken by The Surgeon General, a list of the journals approved will be published to the field.

Production

Production report of the Ministry of Health and Welfare for the month of November indicates production of various types of medicines, dental materials, sanitary materials and biologicals as follows:

Controlled medicines	£ 27,607,081
Non-controlled medicines	68,554,069
Patent medicines	85,966,634
Sanitary materials	7,562,652
Dental materials	1,296,457
Biologicals	6,349,962

The above figures indicate sizeable increases in production of controlled medicines, non-controlled medicines and sanitary materials over the previous six (6) months.

Production of sulpha drugs was 11,745 kg's, the highest monthly production during 1946. Increase in the production of sanitary materials results from allocation of American raw cotton to this program.

Production of DDT dusters and spraying equipment during period 16-21 December:

DDT dusters	982
Sprayer, semi-automatic, pump type	165

Initial plans have been made for accelerating production of sulfathiazole, to provide a quantity sufficient for treatment of venereal disease and pneumococcic infections. Production for

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November was increased to 670 kg's. Planned production for December 1946 and 1st quarter 1947:

December	850 kg's
January	1200 "
February	2000 "
March	2000 "

Production of bismuth subsalicylate and mapharsen have been initiated. These drugs have never been produced on a large scale in Japan and production is expected to increase gradually to meet requirements.

Standardization of the vial and label of commercial penicillin was formulated, to be effective 1 April 1947. The Japan Iron & Steel Company signified their intention to enter the penicillin field.

Narcotics

Reports were received of shortages of narcotics, particularly codeine, in some areas in Japan. Monthly reports indicate the situation is much improved over that of one year ago, although in some cases levels of narcotic stocks have not been brought up to the desired level. When the levels of stocks in local wholesale houses fall below a normal working level, items needed should be purchased, by means of official order form, from central wholesalers in Tokyo and Osaka.

To maintain central wholesale stocks at the desired level, approximately 2,000,000 codeine tablets (0.03 gm) will be released from former Japanese military stocks. Repackaging of these narcotics in 25, 50 and 100 tablet packages is underway, and the stocks are expected to reach central wholesalers by 15 January 1947.

From the 5th Medical Depot, Yokohama, ten Basic Medical Units containing narcotics were consigned to Kagawa prefecture and three to Wakayama. The narcotics in these units should suffice for emergency needs arising out of the earthquake-devastated area.

Information received from the Ministry of Justice regarding current narcotic violations indicate medicinal narcotic stocks in varying amounts are held by unregistered persons in Japan. In addition, some registrants have failed to report inventories, probably contemplating diversion of the unreported narcotics to illicit channels. Vigorous action is being taken by the police and prefectural narcotic officials against these offenders, particularly in the Osaka area.

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SECTION VI

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

General

The Division Chief spent the entire week in the area affected by the recent earthquake and tidal wave. Because of communication difficulties, detailed reports are not yet available; at the present time, however, there does not appear to be an immediate threat of any epidemic.

Venereal Disease Control

This office continues to receive reports of drug shortages. The chief of the Supply Division, Public Health and Welfare Section, SCAP, gives the following information regarding drugs used in the treatment of the venereal disease:

Mapharsen and Bismuth subsalicylate

Only available at present from U.S. Stocks which must be obtained through Military Government. There are sufficient quantities for public clinics. If the Military Government Health Officer wishes to release these drugs to private practitioners, it is recommended that the drugs be given to physicians who will report the case, follow the suggested treatment schedules, do contact tracing and treat the patient to completion. It is not recommended that these drugs be given to private physicians who will not follow directions.

Mapharsen and bismuth subsalicylate are now being manufactured by Japanese companies, but the quality has not been standardized, so that it is unlikely that Japanese made mapharsen and bismuth subsalicylate will be available for at least 60 days.

Neocarsphenamine and old arsphenamine

These drugs are sold to private practitioners through the Prefectural Medicine Control Company. This is a private company under prefectural control and acts as the commercial distributing agency for the entire prefecture. The prefectural venereal disease control officer should see that this company has sufficient supplies of these drugs available for sale to private practitioners. If stocks are insufficient, the Pharmaceutical Affairs Section in the Ministry of Health and Welfare should be informed of this fact.

Sulfonamides

Adequate amounts are available through Military Government

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channels for public clinics. Japanese stocks are becoming increasingly available and should be used. The prefectural government should ask the Ministry for information as to sources of supply. The governor will have to assign sufficient funds for the purchase of these drugs.

Sulfonamides are on sale to private practitioners at the Prefectural Medicine Control Company. The prefectural venereal disease control officer should act as a liaison officer between this company and the Pharmaceutical Affairs Section in the Ministry. He should assure himself that adequate supplies of drugs used in the treatment of venereal diseases are on hand at the Prefectural Medicine Control Company for both public and private use.

Finally, the prefectural government must learn to begin buying these drugs through the control company so that the use of Military Government supplies diminishes.

Typhus Control

The typhus consultants returned from a trip to Nagoya, Kure, and Kumamoto where typhus control conferences were held for the prefectural health officers in Tokai Hokuriku Region, Chugoku and Shikoku Regions and Kyushu Regions respectively. The interest and questions asked at these meetings indicate an improvement in the understanding of typhus control fundamentals.

SECTION VII

VITAL STATISTICS

Births The number of births reported, (195,993) resumed its upward trend established since July; in the preceding month, the number was 190,727. The birth rate for November was 32.6 per 1,000 population.

Deaths Deaths continued to decline in number. A total of 88,425 deaths were reported; the rate was 14.7 per 1,000 population. This figure represents a slight decrease below the October rate (15.1) and a reduction of more than 30 percent below the July rate of 21.5. Following the sharp decline in the rate in the preceding month, an investigation was instituted and there is evidence that this reduction is more apparent than real. Contrary to official instructions, some of the local reporting offices were found to have included in their reports, deaths to Japanese Nationals which occurred outside of Japan. It is known that during the preceding months a large number of Japanese were repatriated and this resulted in many declarations of events occurring outside of Japan. Steps were immediately taken by Japanese authorities to notify all local government offices not to include events occurring outside of Japan in their reports. This may go far towards

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explaining the comparatively close agreement in the rates for October and November. The rates previously stated for the months of July, August and September are now considered to be approximately 30 percent higher than the true figure. Japanese authorities are continuing their study of registration practices regarding this matter.

Infant Deaths Infant deaths (11,390) increased more than 10 percent above the October figure (10,087). The infant death rate was 58.1 per 1,000 live births. This represents the second consecutive month of increase, although the rate is still considerably below the high point (74.0) established in July.

Stillbirths With one exception, stillbirths have increased in number each month since July. There were 8,682 stillbirths reported representing a rate of 44.3 per 1,000 live births.

Marriages Marriages (52,177) increased approximately 40 percent above the figure (37,654) in the preceding month; the marriage rate was 8.7 per 1,000 population. However, it is thought that the September figure (61,102) is abnormally high, and that for October (37,654), much too low.

A possible explanation of this may lie in the fact that a National, uniform declaration form was placed in use for the first time at the beginning of October. Unverified reports, which may explain this matter, would seem to indicate that many people who had not previously made a declaration of their marriage, received incorrect information which lead them to believe that the marriage registration procedure was going to be made extremely difficult, beginning in October. Therefore, it is said that many persons who would normally have made the declaration of their marriage during October or in some later month, made it in September to avoid expected difficulties of later registrations. This tended to elevate the number of registrations in September, and to correspondingly depress it in October. It will be necessary to observe the number reported during the next few months in order to determine correctly the relative importance of the figure reported for the month of October.

Divorces The number of divorces (6,245) was nearly 20 percent higher than the figure (5,237) reported for October: the divorce rate was 1.0 per 1,000 population. Just as in the case of marriages, the number of divorces reported for September (11,639) was abnormally high, and correspondingly low for October (5,237). The explanation given previously for this phenomenon in the case of marriages does not seem to be as plausible for divorces. It is possible that articles appearing in newspapers and other publications concerning expected changes in the civil laws regarding divorce, may have had some effect in causing people, who were already considering taking divorce action, to do so sooner than they might have done otherwise. However, this would not

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SECTIONS VIII - X missing

